[Mr Joseph Vithayathil.]

(*b*) the result of such enquiry, if any; and

(*c*) the steps taken by them to relieve the distress of the people?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 16 deaths were reported besides loss to plantations.

(*c*) Committees have been constituted in both the taluks and requisite funds are being placed at their disposal.

Malayalam Text Books.

31. ✻**MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of Malayalam text books prescribed for the English school classes during the years 1115 and 1116;

(*b*) the respective authors of each of those books?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: (*a*) & (*b*) The member is referred to the Gazette (Education Sheet) dated 9th May 1939, for the Malayalam text books prescribed for the year 1939-40 and that, dated 23rd April 1940 for the Malayalam Text Books prescribed for the year 1940-41.

Divisional Treasuries.

32. ✻**MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is a proposal before them to increase the number of Divisional Treasuries; and

(*b*) if so, the number of such Treasuries to be established?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER (*Deputy Accountant-General in charge of the Financial Secretary's duties*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Working of the Treasuries.

33. ✻**MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have recently separated Treasuries from the control of the Revenue Department;

(*b*) the purposes of such separation; and

(*c*) additional expenditure, if any, to be borne by Government resulting out of such change of control?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) To enable the Finance and the Audit Departments to have a closer control over the Treasury accounts and to develop the audit on new lines.

(*c*) Nil.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether Government have taken steps for reducing the number of individual audits?

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will please repeat the question.

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from Government whether they have taken steps for reducing the number of gazetted officers and thereby reduce individual audit every year?

MR. R. RAMA VARIER: Sir, the question has no bearing on the main question.

P. W. D. Maistries in the Kottayam Division.

34. *MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, by caste, of the P. W. D. Maistries in the Kottayam Division?

MR. J. W. CHACKO (*Superintendent, Workshops, in charge of Chief Engineer's duties*): The *statement required is laid on the table.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know from the honourable member the reason why no Ezhava finds a place in the list of Maistries in the Kottayam Division while there are 64 Nairs and 96 Christians working as Maistries in that Division?

MR. J. W. CHACKO: The reason might be because there were not sufficient number of applicants for that particular post from the community referred to by the honourable member or that the Nairs and the Christian applicants are found to be more suitable for the post.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Is there not a single Ezhava candidate suitable for a Maistry's post?

MR J.W. CHACKO: I would refer the honourable member to the first part of my answer just given.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know from the honourable member whether it is to be inferred that there is not a single qualified and proper Ezhava candidate for the post in the whole of the Kottayam Division?

MR. J. W. CHACKO: No, Sir.

MR. MURUKKUMPUZHA V. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know whether any qualification is fixed for the post?

MR. J. W. CHACKO: The qualification prescribed for the post now is either S.M.T. Maistry Class examination or any other equivalent.

MR. MURUKKUMPUZHA V. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know whether all these persons now appointed as Maistries possess those qualifications?

MR. J. W. CHACKO: The qualifications were prescribed only recently. In the olden days when there was no class for Maistries they were appointed according to the experience they had in the line.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know how many Maistries were appointed in the current year?

MR. J. W. CHACKO: I claim notice, Sir.

Vide Appendix VI. page 73.

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